

1923 - 2019



Medway  
Beekeepers  
Association

**Medway Beekeepers Association**

Celebrating over 95 years of support for beekeeping  
and beekeepers in and around the Medway Towns



---

## Newsletter November 2019

So now we can all have a rest! But it is now time to start planning for next season and reviewing what we did this past year. We have now moved inside for our winter meetings, see the website for more details. In this edition please look at Archie's contribution 'Reading Around', it is very interesting!

---

### Past Event:

**Saturday 19th October 2019**

**MBKA Annual Supper and Prizegiving Evening**

Venue: Wainscott Community Hall, 16 – 18 Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4LG

Once again, our Supper was held at Wainscott Community Hall. This year the room was arranged with 5 tables each seating 8 guests, they were all nicely decorated with an autumn theme involving boxes of fruit. The food was excellent and those with special dietary needs were catered for. Brandon acted as compere once more, complete with his lovely American accent, this again helped the evening run smoothly. He told an amusing story about how he was so surprised at how polite the English are; one lady even said thank you to an ATM!



Our Guest of Honour was Mrs. Lynda Marston-Weston, Member of the Guild of Wax Chandlers who graciously presented the Cups and Prizes.

Mark Ballard won his usual haul of cups. The most impressive being 'The Neves Silver Memorial Cup', for the highest aggregate number of points. He also won 'The Blaxland Silver Salva' for the best sections. Well done again Mark! Tony Edwards won 'The Holland Bowl' for the best honey in the commercial section and also 'The Clueit Cup', for the best honey in the show.

John Chapman also won several awards again, including, 'The Chairman's Silver Challenge Cup' for the best frame, 'The Bryden Memorial Cup' for the best composite entry, 'The Gowar Memorial Cup' for the best mead and finally 'The Wax Cup' for the best wax. We need to do something about these 'serial winners' next year! Sue Chapman made the best cake and so won 'The Rose Bowl'. Special congratulations were made to the best novice, Sonia Belsey who won 'The Novice Cup' and 'The Dennis Harvey Memorial Award'. Well done to you all!

Lynda then presented certificates to those who had passed their BBKA Basic Examination and BBKA Module Examinations. A special mention for Mark Ballard who has passed all of his modules and gained his 'Advanced Theory Certificate' as well as the title of 'Qualified Beekeeper'. Exceptional work and an outstanding feat of endurance.



We welcomed a number of new members who attended our 'Introduction to Beekeeping Course' earlier in the year. Along with those who had taken part in last year Winter Studies Course, Lynda presented each one with a Certificate.



The Chairman thanked Lynda for coming and making the presentations and followed this with a big thanks to the catering staff. He then made a special presentation to Jen Ferry for all of her hard work over the past year. She does so much for the Association, not just in organising the Supper, but also in the numerous things that she does at the apiary and for the education courses that have been running throughout the year. You are a diamond Jen. Many thanks from us all.

John then made a heartfelt special announcement that Pip Blaxland, President of MBKA, has been asked to become a Patron of the National Honey Show. This is a particularly prestigious honour and Pip is one of only five who have been offered this title. Our very warm congratulations go to Pip who has supported The National Show as well as local beekeeping for many, many years.

Following the presentations, we had a lively and well fought out quiz. Well done Bob and Brandon for putting it together. Do you know the capital city of Florida? Well those who attended do now! Finally, a raffle rounded off a really enjoyable evening. Our thanks to all who made this evening possible.

Paul Lawrence

---

## Notes from the Apiary:



The Apiary is now closed for the winter and we have a monitoring rota in place. The hives will be checked once a month mainly to make sure that the bees still have plenty of stores and that the hives are safe and secure. We have finished the season with 4 hives and will restart full inspections in the spring during March / April dependant on the weather.

Mark Ballard (Apiary Manager)

---

## November's Events and Meetings:

### Saturday 9th November 2019

#### BBKA Examination Day

Time: 9.00am until 1.00pm

Venue: Wainscott Community Hall, 16 – 18 Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4L

---

### Monday 11th November 2019

#### Winter Study Group 3

Time: 7.00pm (7.30pm start)

Venue: Wainscott Community Hall, 16 – 18 Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4L

---

## Saturday 16th November 2019

### Indoor Meeting: A talk by Ben Sweeney from Plantlife.

Time: 2 – 5pm

Venue: Wainscott Community Hall, 16 – 18 Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4L

---

## Monday 25th November 2019

### Winter Study Group 4

Time: 7.00pm (7.30pm start)

Venue: Wainscott Community Hall, 16 – 18 Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4L

---

## Wednesday 27th November 2019

### Bee Chat

Come and share your stories and hear everyone else's!

4th Wednesday of the month at The Pier, Lower Upnor, ME2 4XA, at 7.30pm.

---

## This one is for your diary:

### Saturday 7th December 2019

#### Indoor Meeting – Bob Smith talking about “Pollen – super-food for honey bees”

Time: 2 – 5pm

Venue: Wainscott Community Hall, 16 – 18 Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4L

In order for a honey bee colony to thrive, it needs be able to gather food resources throughout the active season. This talk will look particularly at the role of pollen in HB nutrition, what pollen is and how bees collect it. We will also touch on the practical aspects that beekeepers may need to consider and the role of pollen in verifying honey label claims.

---

## Look A New Feature! A big welcome to Archie!

### Reading Around:

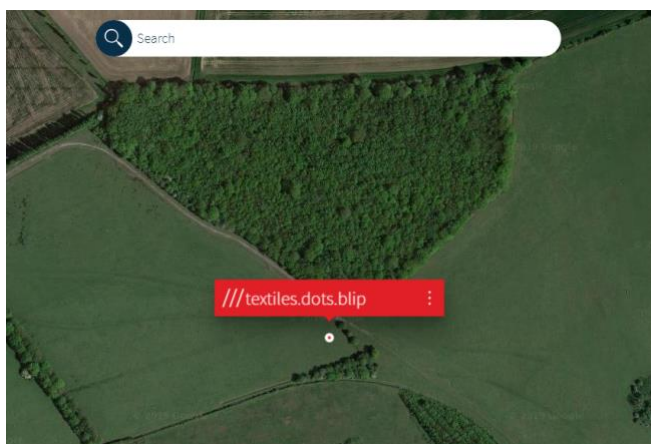
A monthly glance at a topic or two in the media with Archie McLellan.

To view this month's edition please click on the link below and look under the 'Information & Alerts' heading:

<https://members.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Reading-around-November-2019.pdf>

---

### What3Words:



If you have an out apiary that could be hard to find, What3Words could be a lifesaver; if you ever need to provide the emergency services with a precise location. It is easier to remember than a grid references and there is less chance of getting it wrong.

What3Words have divided the world into a grid of 3m x 3m squares and assigned each one a unique 3-word address, for example, 'lime.bolt.metro'. This allows it to be used on a smart phone to quickly determine a user's location.

It can be downloaded on iPhone or Android from the App or Play store and will pinpoint your current location. If you don't have access to a smart phone, then your 3-word location can be found in advance from their website: [www.what3words.com](http://www.what3words.com). It is easy to use and utilises a google maps platform. When it has located your position or you have found it on the computer, it will provide you with the unique 3-word location.

This App is not only useful for emergencies, even if you are just trying to tell someone where an access gate is, or, you are meeting someone at a big event, this can provide you and them with a quick and accurate location.

**Sonia Belsey**

---

### **Beekeeper's Bazarre:**

Bob Smith has 8 boxes of 1lb honey jars, complete with gold lids for sale. They are going for the knock down price of only £20.50 for a box of 72. If you are interested in buying some from Bob, please contact him on: 07922 631106

---

### **Asian Hornet Update:**



There is a useful App for phones, 'Asian Hornet Watch', this has pictures of the hornet and of similar insects that you might observe, Wood wasps, European hornets etc.

Also note, that it is crucial you report any possible sightings so our experts can take quick and effective action to eradicate Asian hornets.

For further information go to: [www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/latest-news](http://www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/latest-news)

Visit: [www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com) for the latest updates.

---

### **Website Update:**

By now you should all have received your login details for the new secure 'Member's Area'. Any problems just let me know, email: [paul.lawrence@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:paul.lawrence@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk) .

**Paul Lawrence** (Website Manager)

---

### **Facebook:**

Join our Facebook page for information, updates and events:

<https://www.facebook.com/medwaybka/>

---

### **And Finally:**

A list of the meetings can also be viewed by going to: <https://members.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/wp-login.php>

Thank you to all who have contributed to this month's edition and remember if anyone has any news, ideas, amusing stories or comments or indeed suggestions about the websites or for any future newsletter, please get in touch with me, Paul Lawrence at the address shown below, we really do appreciate your input.

### **Contact Details:**

**Chairman**

John Chapman  
[john.chapman@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:john.chapman@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk)

**Newsletter and Website Enquiries**

Paul Lawrence  
[paul.lawrence@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:paul.lawrence@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk)